Welcome to Thornton Creek
Virtual tour 2021
Principal: Alexandra Benfield
Assistant Principal: Laurie Miller
Agenda: What should we expect today?

• Welcome and Introductions
• Information about TC
• Thornton Creek Video
• Safety, Curriculum, Schedules
• Questions and Answers
• Kindergarten Video
• Final Q and A time
What Makes Thornton Creek different?

Thornton Creek Elementary is a Seattle Public Schools option school that achieved Creative Approach status in 2013. Thornton Creek emphasizes the development of both knowledge and character using elements from Expeditionary Learning and the Responsive Classroom approach to social-emotional and academic learning.
What is Expeditionary Learning?

- Emphasizes learning by doing
- Focus on character growth, teamwork, reflection and literacy
- Adventure, service, and character development through a variety of student experiences
- Project-based learning
- Promotes self-discovery
- Classes construct knowledge around a multi-faceted subject, studied extensively throughout the year and integrated into the daily curriculum.
Past Expeditions include:

- Kindergarten: Birds of Green Lake
- 1<sup>st</sup>- Salmon in the Trees
- 2<sup>nd</sup>- People of the Cedar
- 3<sup>rd</sup>- Lewis and Clark
- 4<sup>th</sup>- The Expedition Expedition
- 5<sup>th</sup>- Immigration
Current Expeditions

- Kindergarten: Me on the Map
- First Grade: We are Family
- 2nd Grade: Salmon in the Trees: A Healthy Salmon Stream
- 3rd Grade: Salmon and Cedar
- 4th Grade: Engineers and Inventions
- 5th Grade: A More Perfect Union: Constitution/Government, Revolutionary War, Bill of Rights and Dissent
What else defines TC?

- We loop grades 2-3 and 4-5, so students have same teacher for two years in those grades.
- Students typically have at least 45 minutes of visual arts instruction per week.
- Students typically have 55 minutes of recess a day.
- Strong parent involvement and collaboration.
- Social/emotional connections through morning and closing circle, grounded in Responsive Classroom Curriculum, RULER, SEL district lessons and Second Step.
Curriculum: First Through Fifth

Primary 1-2
- CCC, Teacher's College, Lucy Calkins (District curriculum for reading and writing)
- Bridges (Math)
- Social/emotional Learning: Responsive Classroom, Second Step, RULER/Mood Meter

Intermediate 3-5
- CCC (District curriculum for reading and writing)
- Bridges (Math)
- Social/emotional Learning: Responsive Classroom, Second Step, RULER/Mood Meter
Current Demographics

- Caucasian: 67%
- Hispanic: 7%
- Multi-Racial: 16%
- Asian: 7%
- Black/African American: 3%
Racial Equity Work

- Completing a speaker series co-hosted by our two parent groups focused on creating a safe and welcoming environment for ALL families

- Strengthening our PLC (Professional Learning Communities) to offer high levels of rigor, analyze data and share ideas as professionals

- Racial Equity Team

- Embedding Social Justice Standards work into our Social Emotional Learning
Enrollment

• **Open Enrollment begins February 1 - 19, 2021.**

• Choice applications will be accepted after this date through May 31 but will be considered "late" and will no longer qualify for sibling or Geo-zone priority tiebreakers. School Choice applications will be available online the same day, February 1st.

• School Choice forms are available online, or at the John Stanford Center during the open enrollment window.

• [https://www.seattleschools.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=627&pagelId=14103](https://www.seattleschools.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=627&pagelId=14103)
Choice Seats

• If additional choice seats become available, waitlisted students will be contacted by Admissions in waitlist order, to be offered a choice assignment; families will have 48 hours to accept or decline the offer before the next student must be called. Please confirm parent and guardian contact information in the Source is current.

• If you need assistance, please contact the Admissions office online or by phone 206-252-0760
Health Screening, PPE and Building Cleaning

How will we ensure the safety of our students, staff and families?
What will classes look like?

Current Plan is to have 15:1 classroom ratios and 6-10 in PreK (outdoor pilot dependent)

Classroom cohorts spend the day together and eat lunch in classrooms

Recess and Specialists (Art, PE, Technology) is still being solidified
Safety Measures

- Additional hiring of custodians
- Required sanitation and monitored schedule
- Mandatory masks and attestation forms
- HVAC/Cohort Mapping
- Classroom Rearrangements
- Handwashing and Sanitizing Stations
Transportation

- Students wear a face mask
- Air flow in the bus by adjusting the windows
- Maintain physical distancing and support students to remain 6 feet apart
- Verification of completion of student daily health screening (attestation) forms
- Load buses systematically to maintain distance
- Assign each student a seat and maintain a seating assignment chart for each bus run
Questions and Answers

What are your questions so far?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30-8:50</td>
<td>Morning Meeting</td>
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<td>8:50-9:00</td>
<td>Movement Break</td>
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<td>9:00-9:20</td>
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<td>Art Project</td>
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<td>Art Project</td>
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<td>9:40-10:10</td>
<td>Recess/Snack/Bathroom</td>
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<td>10:10-11:00</td>
<td>Math</td>
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<td>Science/Social Studies/Expedition</td>
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<td>11:00-11:30</td>
<td>Read-Aloud/ Closing Circle</td>
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<td>11:30-12:30</td>
<td>Recess/Lunch</td>
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<td>12:30-1:00</td>
<td>Quiet Time Family/Teacher Connection Time</td>
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<td>1:00-2:00</td>
<td>Choice Time/ Special Projects/ Small Group Time (Once a week)</td>
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<td>2:20-3:00</td>
<td>Art/PE</td>
<td>P.E.</td>
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Notes: (1) Highlighting indicates synchronous time with teacher. (2) Family/Teacher Connection Time is for parents/guardians to consult/communicate with the teacher, via email, telephone, or Teams. (3) Art/P.E. lessons are live twice a week and asynchronous twice a week. (4) For Small Group Time, each student will be in a small group which will meet with the teacher once a week, for the first 20-30 minutes of the Choice Time block. (5) Science, Social Studies and Expedition will be integrated throughout the week whenever possible, for example during Read-Aloud, Choice Time, reading, and math.
What curriculum is being used in Kindergarten?

Lucy Calkins Reader’s Workshop, Teacher’s College, Wired for Reading, Handwriting without tears, Words Their Way

Bridges, TERC Investigations, Counting Collections, Number Corner

Responsive Classroom, The Incredible, Flexible, You; Second Step
During remote learning, Thornton Creek remains committed to whole-child teaching strategies that meet each student's individual social-emotional and academic needs. Stay safe and we'll see you at school soon!
Questions and Answers

Our staff and parent community are here to support your burning questions!